**Role of the SAARC in defusing the situation in Sri Lanka**

206. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what role Government have played being a member of SAARC since the outbreak of war and genocide in North-Eastern province of Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the SAARC can play any positive role in defusing the alarming situation;

(c) whether Government art aware of the proposal of the Sri Lankan President to involve international mediation to save the crisis; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government have made several efforts for peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka. These efforts have nothing to do with SAARC.

(b) SAARC seeks to promote regional economic cooperation in South Asia and has no role to play in matters which are essentially political, or concern the internal affairs of member states or in bilateral issues between member states.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government believe that the resolution of the ethnic conflict is a matter to be ultimately solved by the Sri Lanka Government and the Tamils of Sri Lanka.

**Supply medicine and other essential items to Sri Lanka**

207. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to send medicines and other essential commodities through International Red Cross to Sri Lanka in view of the genocide that has begun in Sri Lanka's North-Eastern Province; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) There is no such proposal at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

**CAG report on DAVP**

208. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CAG has stated in its report for 1988-89 that an infructuous expenditure of Rs. 5.88 lakhs was incurred due to delay in body-building work of the Vans meant for Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per statement. (*See* below).

**Statement**

*Reasons for delay in body-building of exhibition vans of DAVP*

The C A G in its report for the year 1988-89 stated that an infructuous expenditure of Rs. 5.88 lakh had been incurred due to delay in the body building of 3 exhibition vans meant for Itanagar, Aizwal and Calcutta Units (Mobile Van Units) of DAVP. While the van units at Itanagar and Aizwal were Commissioned under the 6th Plan Scheme, the van meant for Calcutta was for replacement of the old van which had been declared unserviceable and subsequently auctioned.